THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday, the 4th March 1958.

The House met in the Council Chamber, Fort St. George, at three of the clock, Mr. Chairman (THE HON. DR. P. V. CHERIAN) in the Chair.

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Women Police

* 35 *Q.*—SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Home be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any women have been recruited in the Police Force in this State;

(*b*) if so, the number of women so recruited; and

(*c*) the duties assigned to them?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: (*a*) No, Sir.

(*b*) & (*c*) Does not arise, Sir.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: May I know, Sir, why no women have been recruited to the Women Police Force and whether there are any special reasons for not recruiting them to the Police Force?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: I cannot give any reasons as such for not recruiting women to the Police Force. All along it has been the men's Police. Of course, they have been looking after men and women. But, now, the question of having a women Police wing in the State Police Force has been under examination and consideration for a pretty long time and recently, Government have accepted the proposal to have a small skeleton Police staff of women consisting of one Assistant Sub-Inspector and six constables for attending to certain specific work. Hon. Members would have been aware that this proposal is contained in the Budget proposals about the Police.

SRI T. PURUSHOTHAM: What are the specific duties for which the women Police would be drafted?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM: As it is, this small skeleton force that will be drafted would attend particularly to women passengers in the railways. But, generally, Sir, these are the purposes for which the women Police Force, if it is considered—and it has been considered—necessary, could be appropriately and usefully employed. Patrolling areas where undesirable women may frequent, rescue young girls found homeless and in danger of becoming prostitutes, accompanying the Police on Immoral Traffic Act raids, escorting to court and guarding in court female prisoners, escorting remand and female undertrial prisoners,

[4th March 1958

assisting Investigation officers and questioning complainants in cases such as assaults on women, rape, etc., and questioning women accused and women and child witnesses, patrolling large railway stations and meeting trains to deal with, control and assist women passengers, dealing with stray children and bandobust duties at large gatherings where women congregate.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : Could not the women Police be employed to run the 'May I help you' squads that have recently come into existence in the State?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Let us first try with the small skeleton staff in the railways. Then, we shall see what we can do further with the experience that we would be gaining.

Dr. V. K. JOHN : Sir, are the Government of the opinion that women in the Police Force cannot discharge the duties and responsibilities which men can discharge?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not know, Sir, whether the hon. the Deputy Leader of the Opposition has a different view, but I think it is the general view that on account of physical handicaps, women Police cannot discharge their duties and responsibilities in the same way as men Police are expected to discharge and have been discharging.

Dr. V. K. JOHN : What about strong women?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Even strong women, unless they are transformed into men, cannot become men for this purpose.

Sri T. PURUSHOTHAM : What is the special dress that will be provided for the women Police Force?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : There should be no difficulty about the dress. Hon. Members have seen Scouts and N.C.C's. wearing special dress and that is not a very important matter. But that is also under examination.

Srimathi Mary C. CLUBWALA JADHAV : May I know when the women Police Force will start work?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : That would depend upon hon. Members passing this Budget. (Laughter.)

Non-payment of salaries to teachers of Elementary Schools in Nannilam taluk

* 36 *Q.*—Sri G. KRISHNAMOORTHY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the teachers of elementary schools under the management of Panchayats in Nannilam taluk of Tanjore district have not been paid their salaries due from 1st March 1957; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?